

KRISHNA

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THE CHILDHOOD OF THE
AVATAR OF VISHNU

Krishna is the most endearing and ennobling character in Indian mythology. He is at once the common cowherd engaging the milk-maids in playful banter and the supreme intellectual engaged in the exposition of the Gita philosophy.

Krishna has a particular appeal for children because he is one of them as no other divine is. Krishna the boy is mischievous; he is naughty. He has irrepressible energy for innumerable escapades. He is no prig; he is no puritan. He has divine powers. But he humanises them and remains a boy. This powerful human element is the secret of Krishna's universal popularity. He is secular even as he is sacred, and so he remains throughout his life. That is why Krishna becomes a living presence to all children who have listened to the stories about him.

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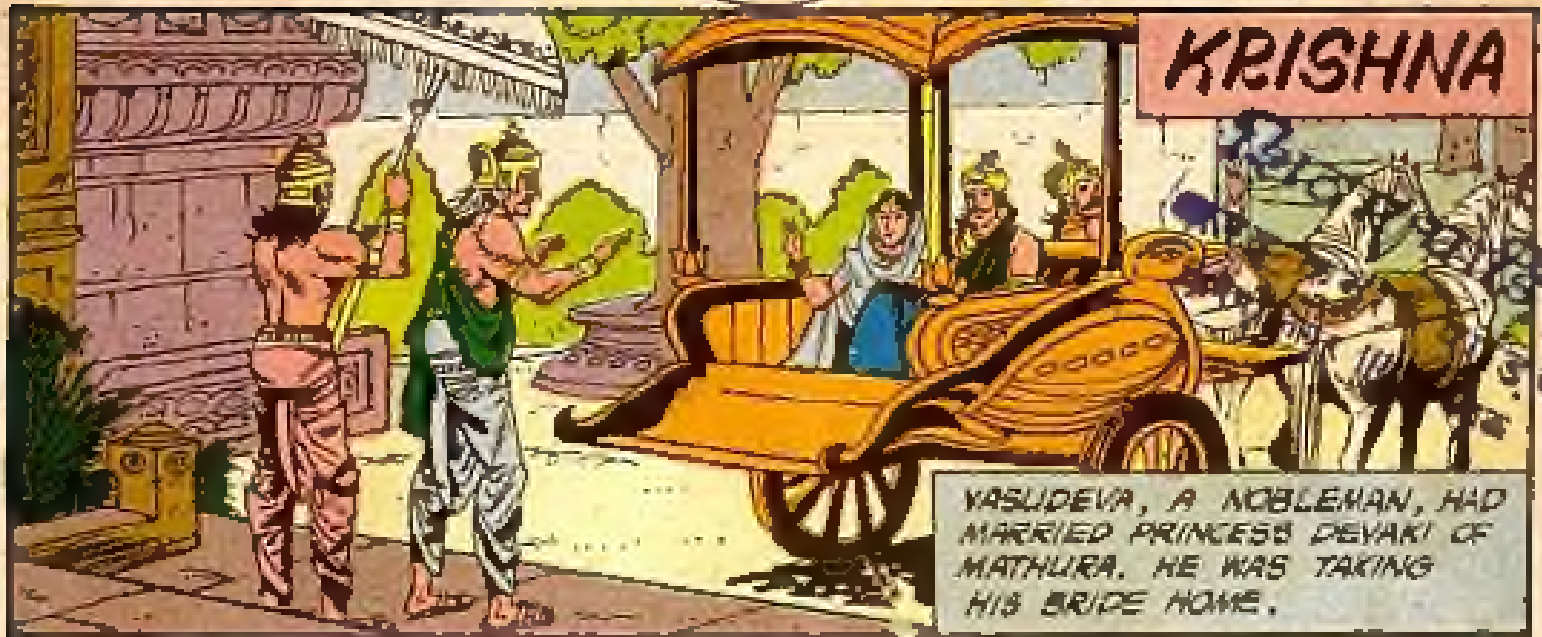
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KRISHNA



DEVAKI'S COUSIN, PRINCE KAMSA, WAS DRIVING THE CHARIOT. HE WAS CRUEL AND THE PEOPLE FEARED HIM.

HAI! LOOK AT THEM RUN, YASUDEVA!

IT'S KAMSA! RUN!



JUST THEN A HEAVENLY VOICE WAS HEARD.

KAMSA, YOU SHALL SOON DIE. THE EIGHTH CHILD BORN TO DEVAKI WILL SLAY YOU!



IF SHE LIVES TO HAVE THAT EIGHTH CHILD! I'LL SLAY HER BEFORE THEN!

KAMSA! DON'T!



हमारे देवकी के बच्चे का नाम कृष्ण है
कृष्ण का नाम है कृष्ण

YOUR SISTER HAS DONE YOU NO HARM, KAMSA. AS FOR THE CHILDREN WHO ARE YET TO BE BORN, I SHALL GIVE EACH ONE TO YOU, THE MOMENT IT IS BORN. I PROMISE.

I'LL SPARE DEVAKI, BUT I'LL MAKE SURE THAT YOU KEEP YOUR WORD.



KAMSA CONFINED DEVAKI AND VASUDEVA IN A PALACE. HE VISITED THEM EVERY TIME A BABY WAS BORN.

DEVAKI, GIVE ME THE BABY.

NO!



STOP HIM, MY LORD!



I AM HELPLESS, DEVAKI!

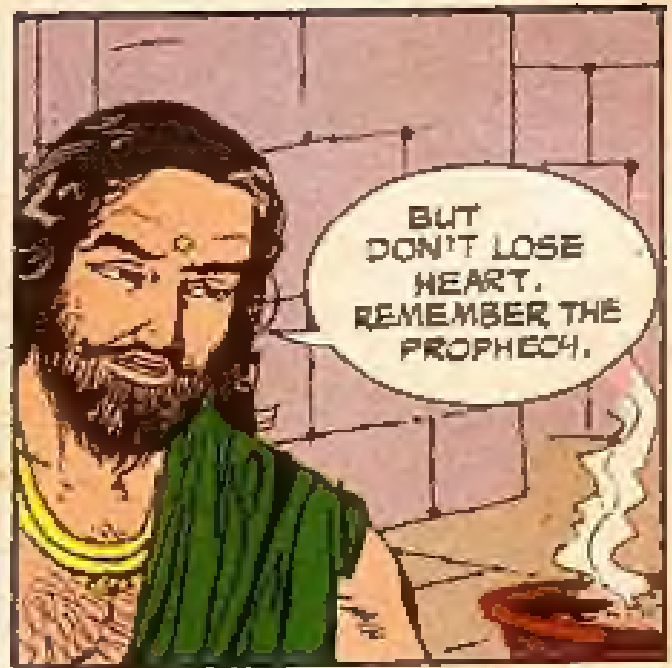


THUS DID THE COUPLE LOSE SIX OF THEIR CHILDREN. WHEN THE SEVENTH ONE WAS ABOUT TO BE BORN...

FROM THAT THRANT, KAMSA? WE WILL NEVER SUCCEED.

WE MUST TRY AND SAVE THIS CHILD, DEVAKI.





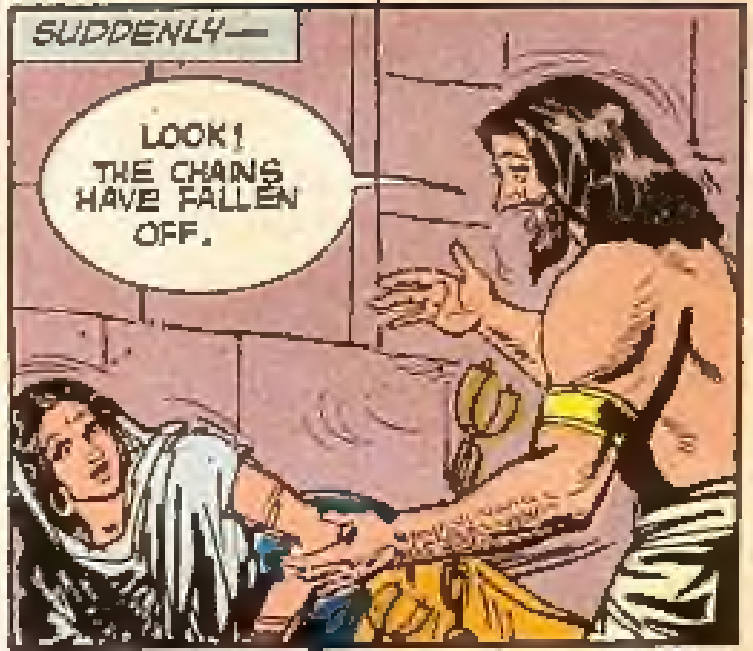
THE SEVENTH CHILD WAS MIRACULOUSLY CARRIED TO ROHINI, VASUDEVA'S SECOND WIFE, IN GOKUL.



AND KAMSA WAS TOLD THAT DEVAKI'S BABY WAS STILL-BORN.







GOKUL WAS ON THE
OPPOSITE BANK OF THE
RIVER YAMUNA WHICH
WAS THEN IN SPATE.



AS VASUDEVA APPROACHED, HOWEVER, THE WATERS PARTED...



... AND VASUDEVA WALKED TOWARDS GOKUL.



AS HE NEARED GOKUL —

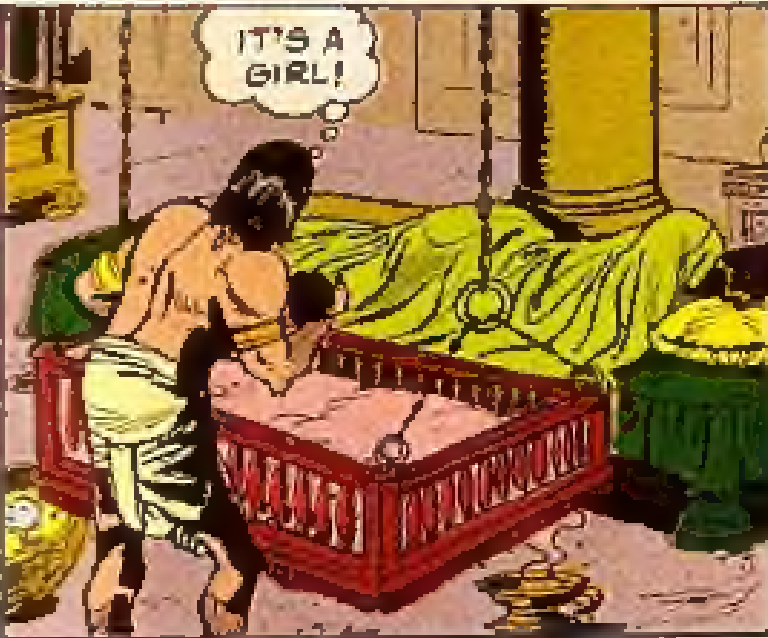
AND THE
CRY OF A NEW-
BORN BABY, IT
COMES FROM
NANDA'S
HOUSE..



NANDA'S WIFE
YASHODA HAS HAD
A CHILD.



IT'S A
GIRL!



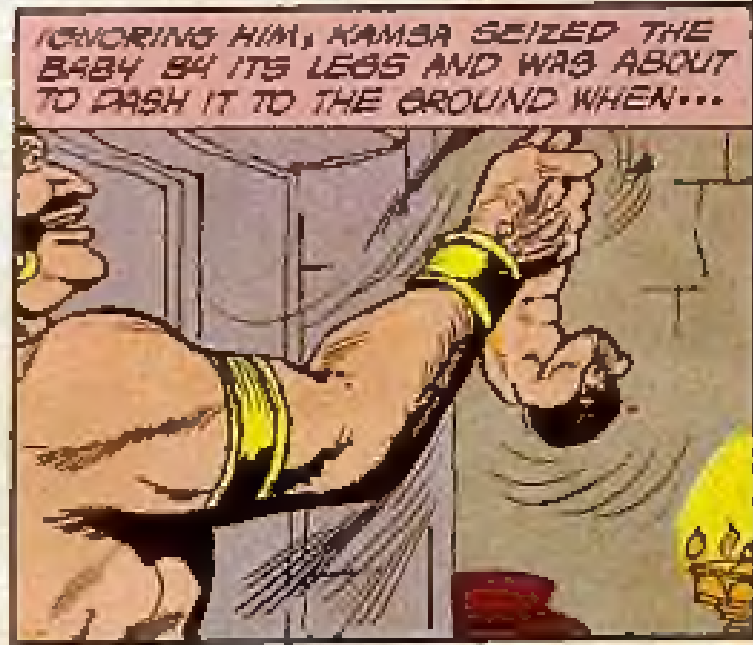
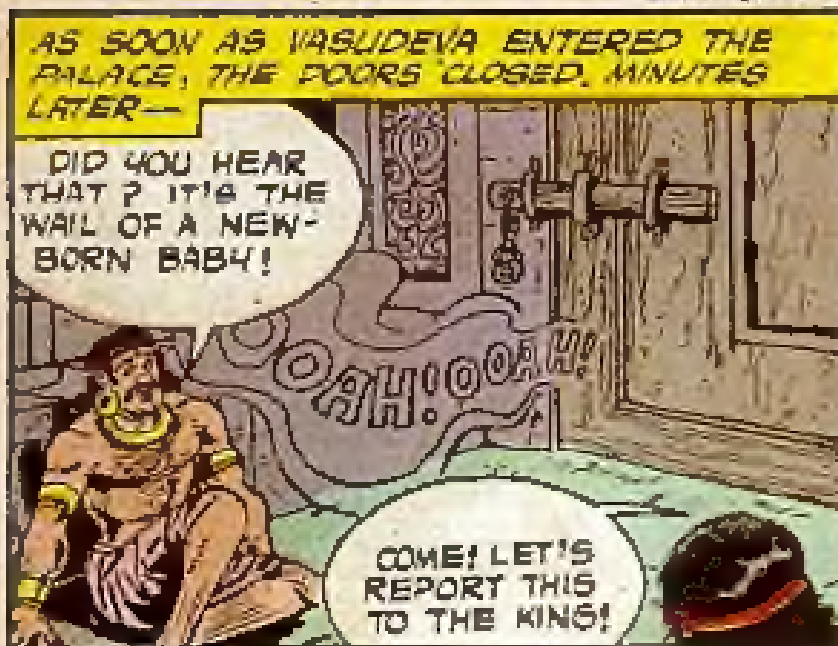
AND SURELY
KAMSA WOULD
NOT KILL A BABY
GIRL.

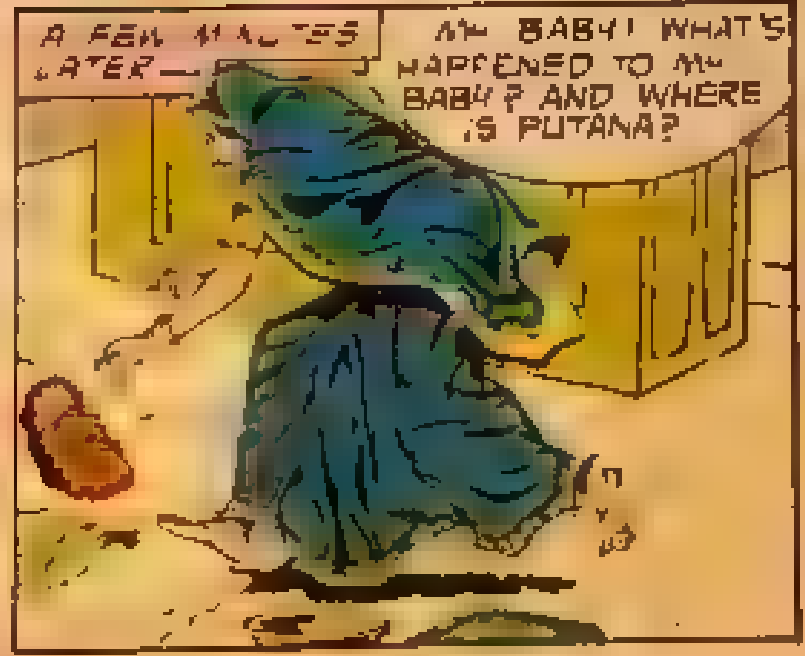
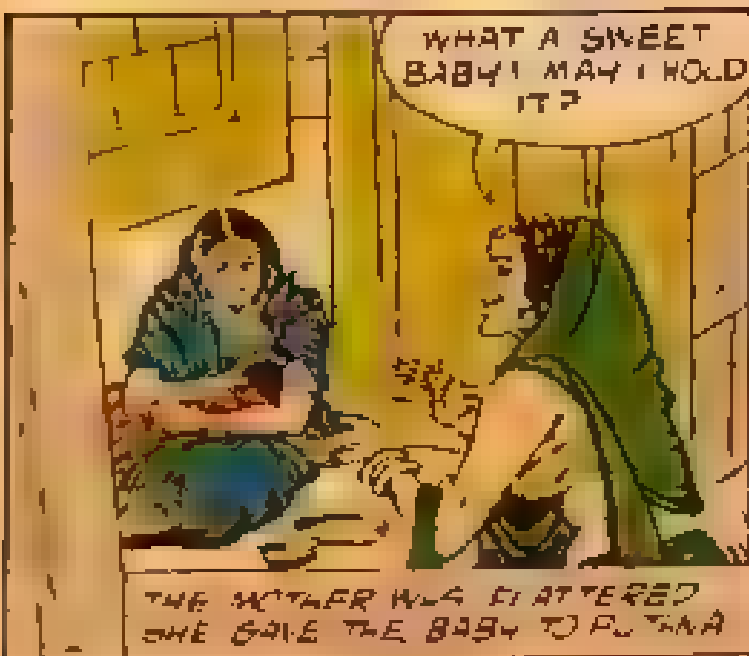


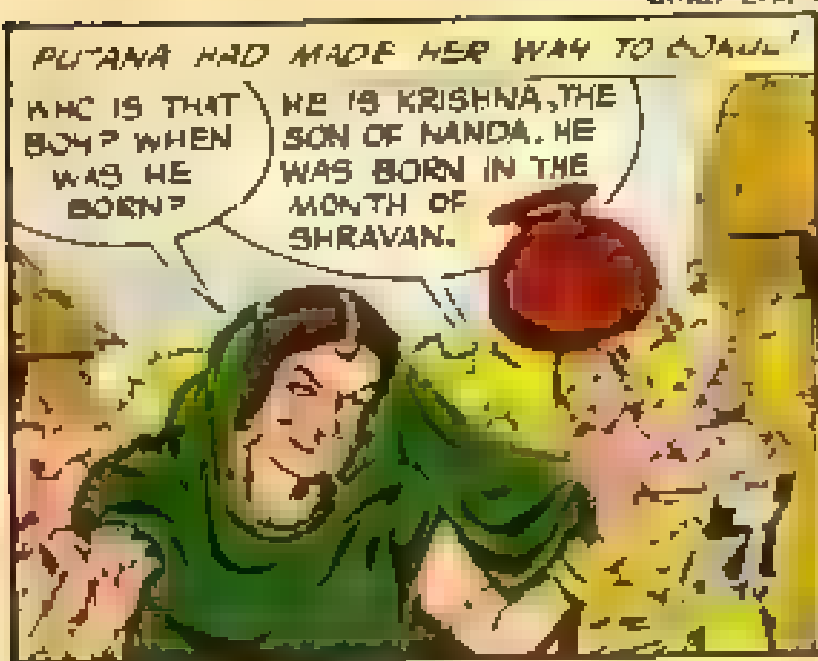
SO VASUDEVA LEFT HIS EIGHTH
CHILD IN NANDA'S HOUSE AND
CARRIED THE BABY GIRL TO MATHURA.

THE CHILD
IS QUIET, AND
THE GUARDS
ARE STILL
ASLEEP.









2-7-1954 MEET BY KRISHNA
TO BE AN ATTRACTIVE LITTLE

KRISHNA!
COME HAVE
SOME FRESH
BUTTER FOR
YOU.



MAY
I HAVE SOME
MORE,
MOTHER?

NO, KRISHNA
THAT'S ENOUGH
FOR TODAY.



HERE'S
BALARAM! GO
AND PLAY WITH
HIM.



TWO BOYS RUN OUT
TO MEET THEIR FRIENDS

KRISHNA,
LET'S GO AND
PLAY ON THE
BANK OF THE
SAMUNA

MAY
I'LL JOIN YOU
IN A MINUTE



4'S DE FATH CHILD, WOULD NOT BE RUN

KRISHNA TIPTOED INTO A NEARBY HOUSE...



SHE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE POT OF BUTTER IN THE KITCHEN

YOU NAUGHTY BOY! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?



SHE DRAGGED KRISHNA TO YASHODA.

KRISHNA HAS EATEN ALL THE BUTTER IN MY HOUSE



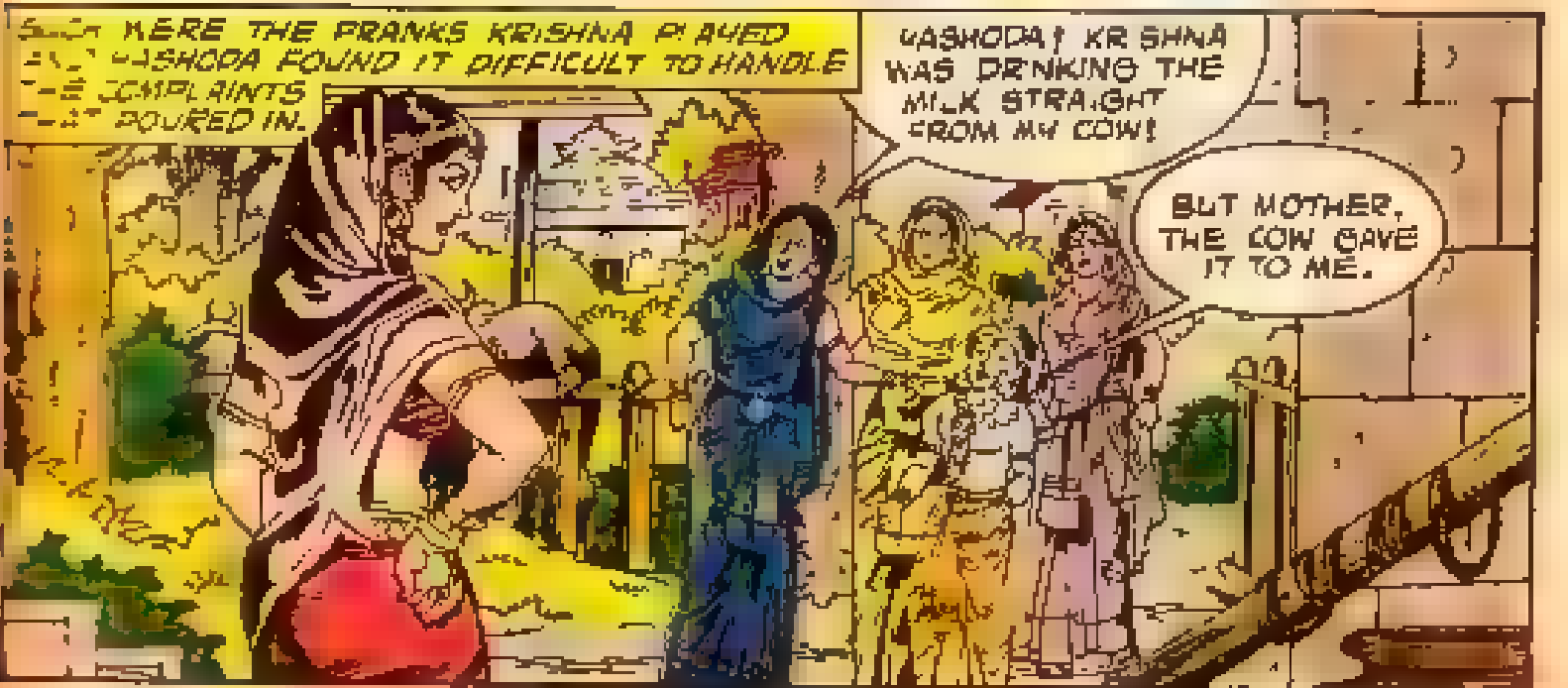
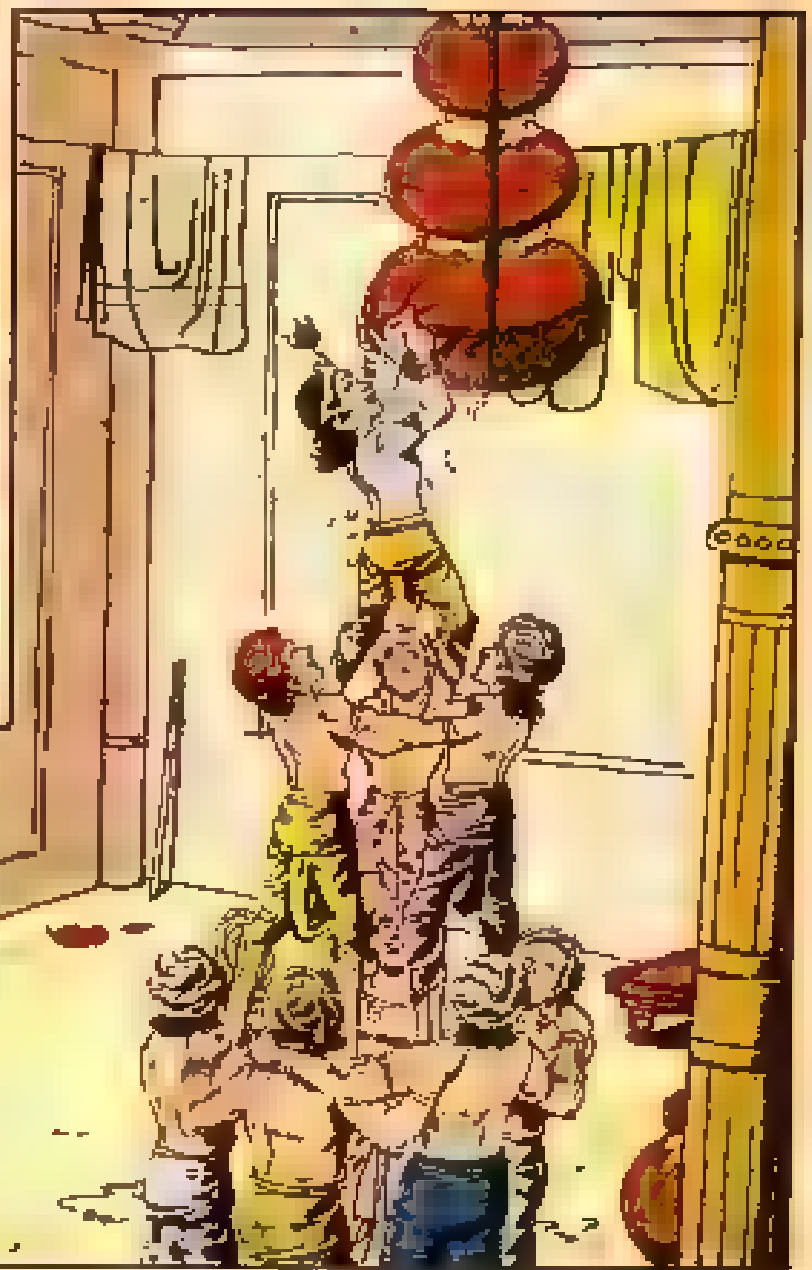
WHY KRISHNA DID THAT? DON'T SCOLD IT WHY. I GAVE HIM A WHOLE POT OF BUTTER ONLY A SHORT WHILE AGO

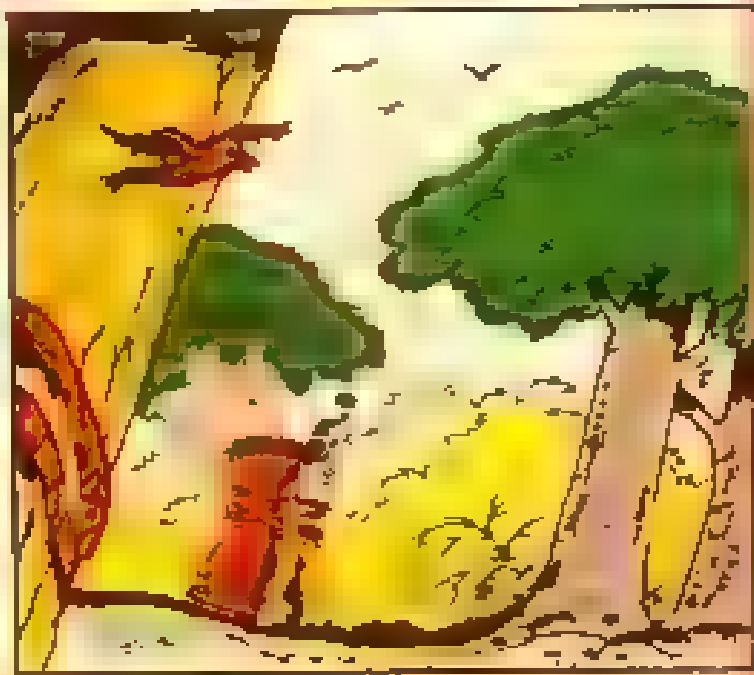
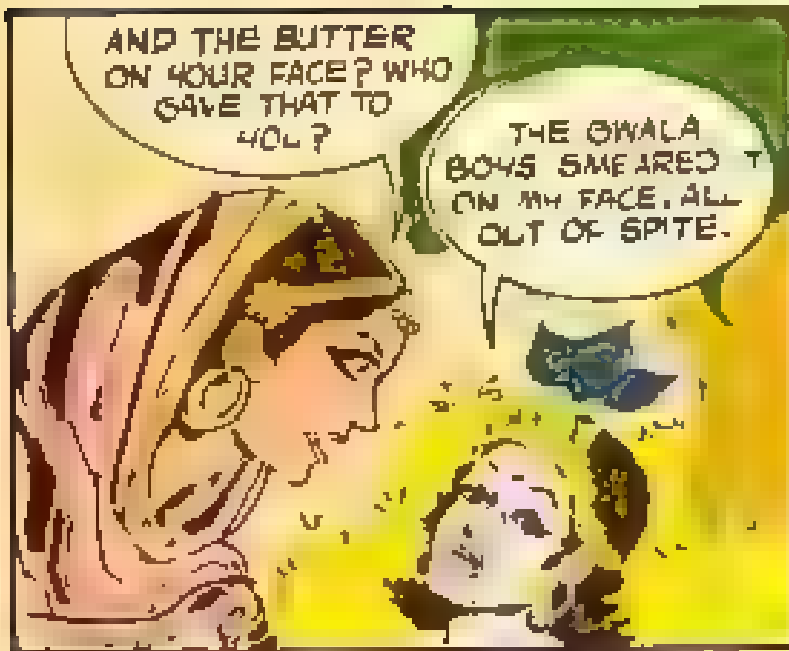
B...



SISTER, YOU MUST KEEP THE MILK AND BUTTER BEYOND THE REACH OF CHILDREN







BUT WHILE HE WAS ON HIS WAY
THE MORTAR WAS LAUGHT BETWEEN
TWO TREES.



HE PULLED WITH ALL HIS
MIGHT TILL

... THE TREES CRASHED TO THE GROUND.



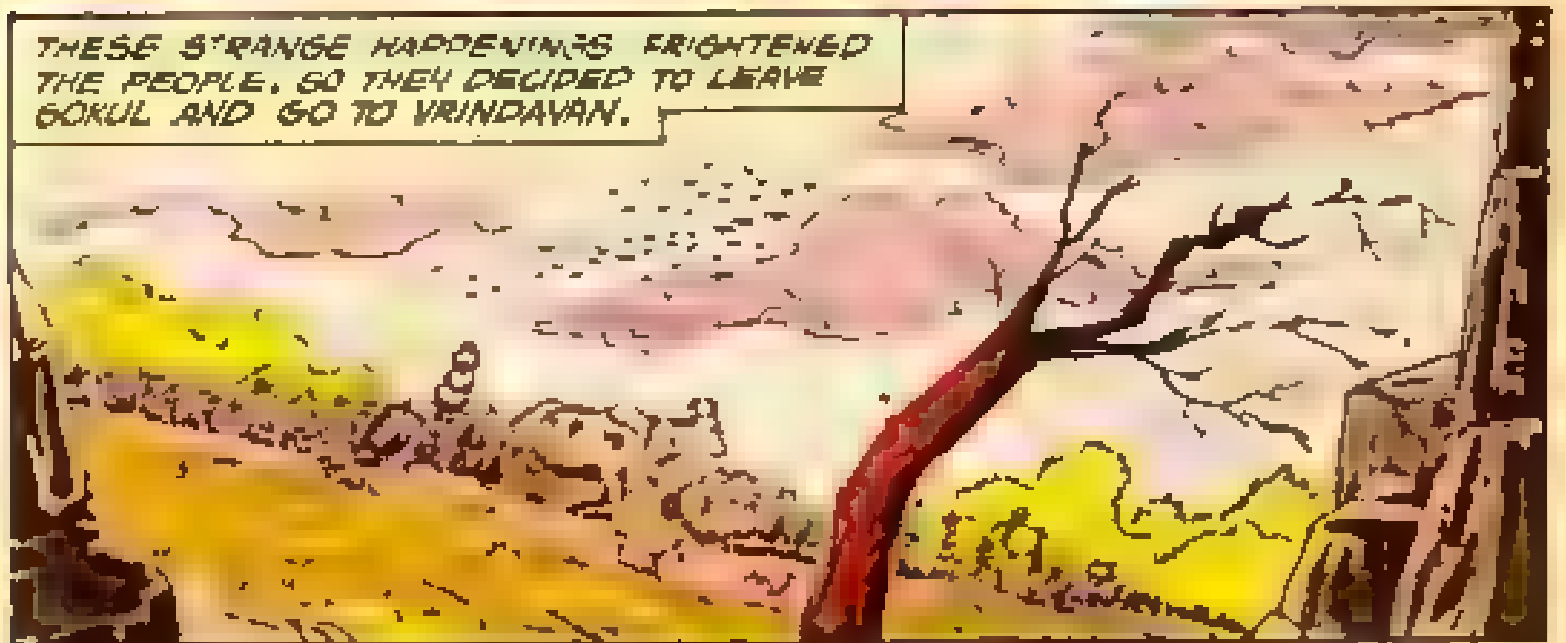
THE YEND SCREAM A LAUGH
(OTHERS) AT THE SCENE

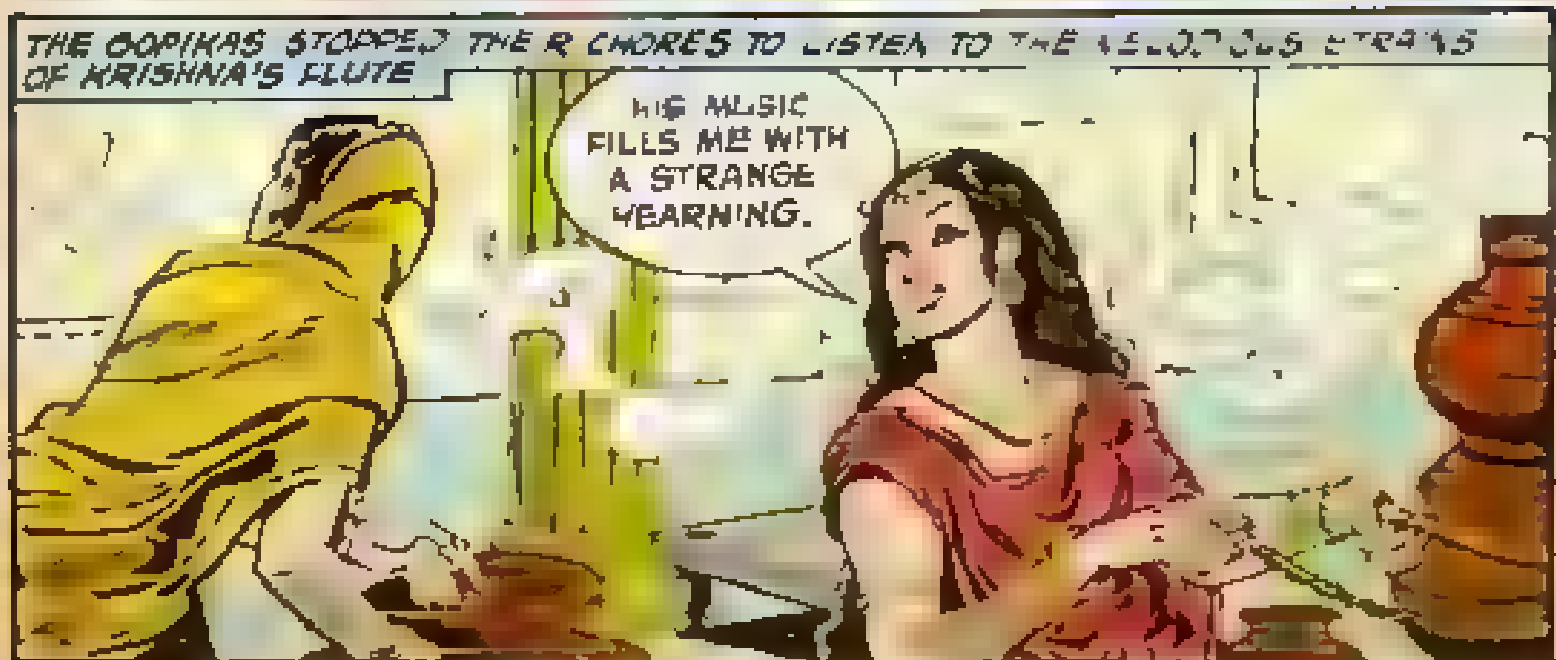
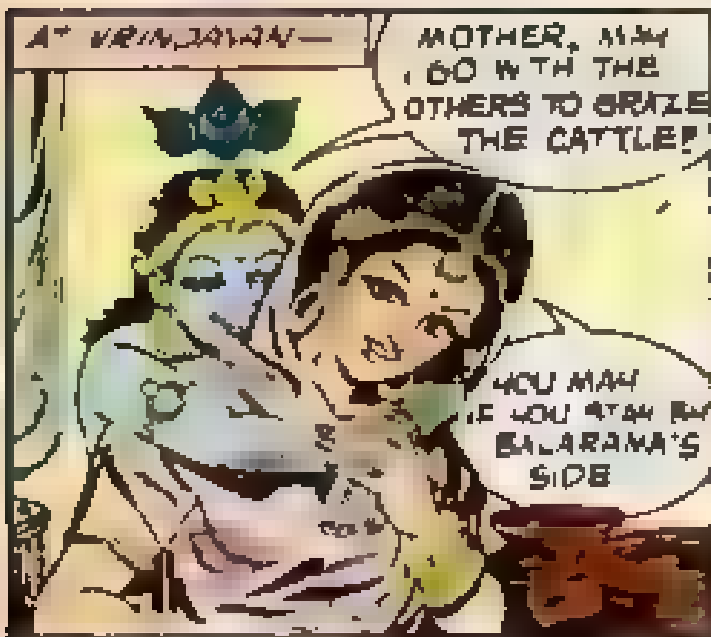


THIS
BOY IS A
MARVEL!

HE UPROOTED
THOSE TWO
MIGHTY
TREES!

THESE STRANGE HAPPENINGS FRIGHTENED
THE PEOPLE, SO THEY DECIDED TO LEAVE
GOKUL AND GO TO VRINDAVAN.

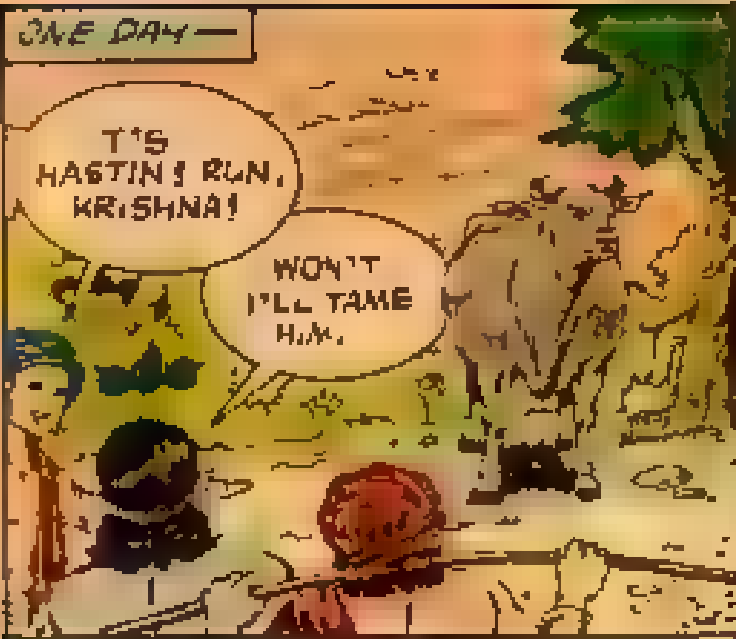




ONE DAY —

IT'S
HASTING! RUN,
KRISHNA!

WO'NT
I'LL TAME
HIM.



PLEASE
COME BACK,
KRISHNA!
HE'LL HURT
YOU.



AS KRISHNA
NEARED HIM, THE
BULL SNORTED
FIERCELY AND
CHARGED.



BUT KRISHNA WAS TOO QUICK FOR HIM.

QUIET, MY
FRIEND. I WON'T
HURT YOU.



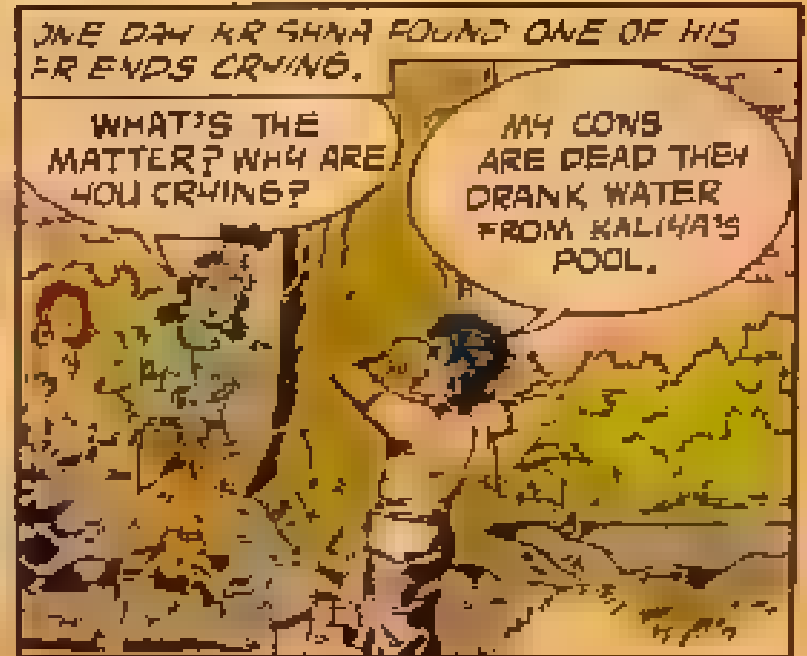
THUS DID KRISHNA, FIRSTLY BUT
GENTLY, CALM THE ANGRY BULL.

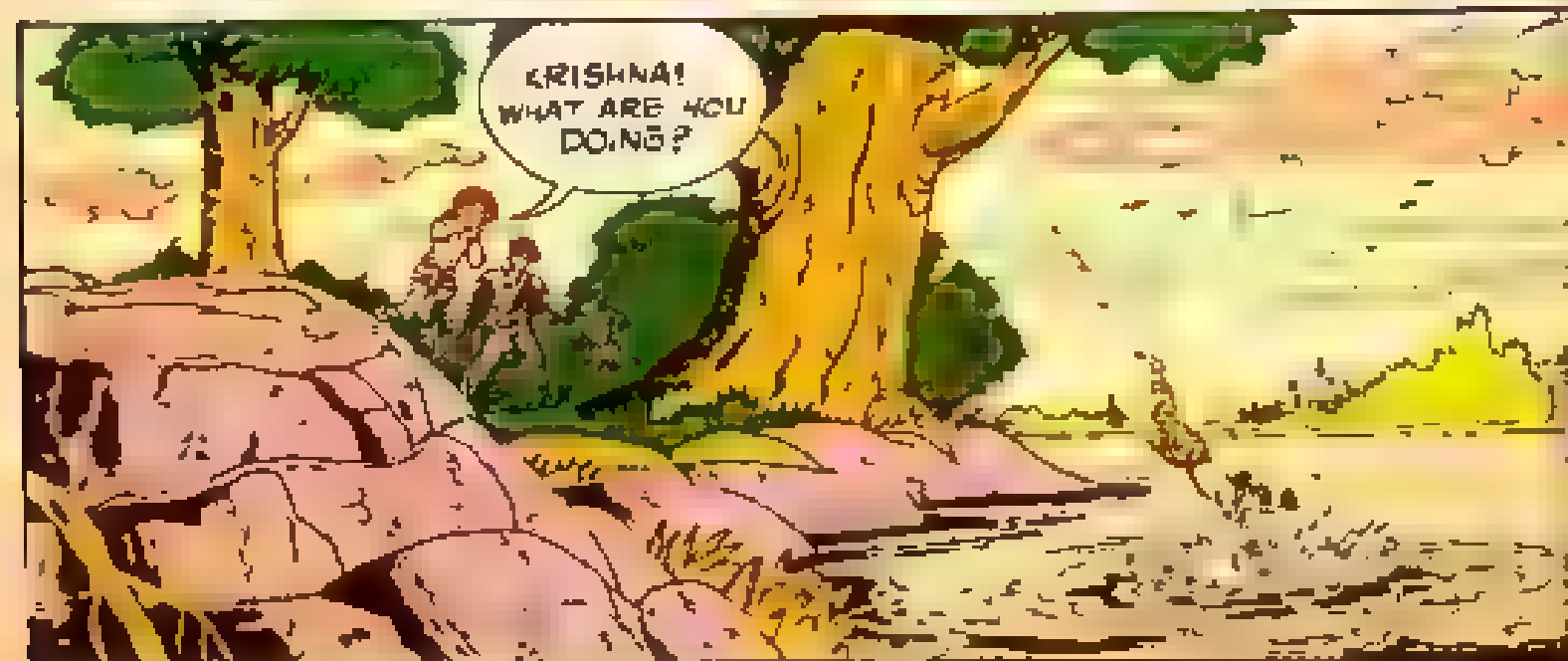
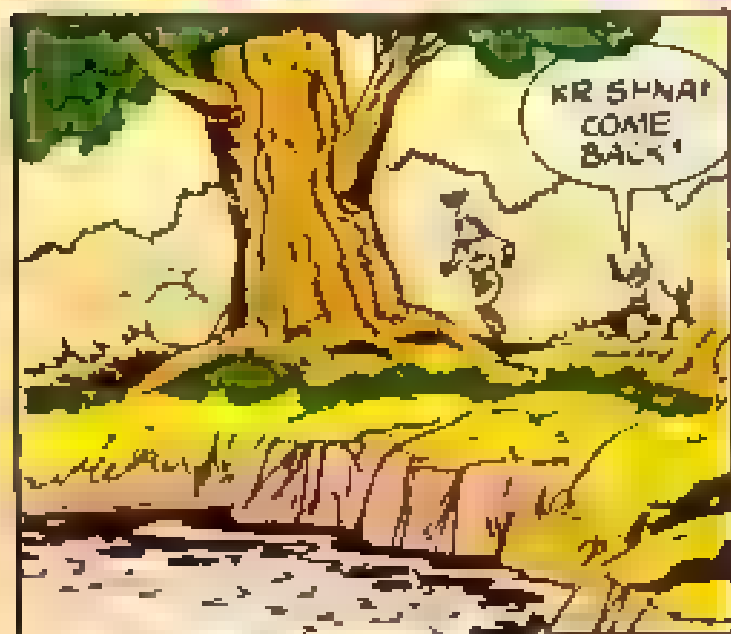


ONE DAY KRISHNA FOUND ONE OF HIS
FRIENDS CRYING.

WHAT'S THE
MATTER? WHY ARE
YOU CRYING?

MY COWS
ARE DEAD THEY
DRANK WATER
FROM KALIYA'S
POOL.





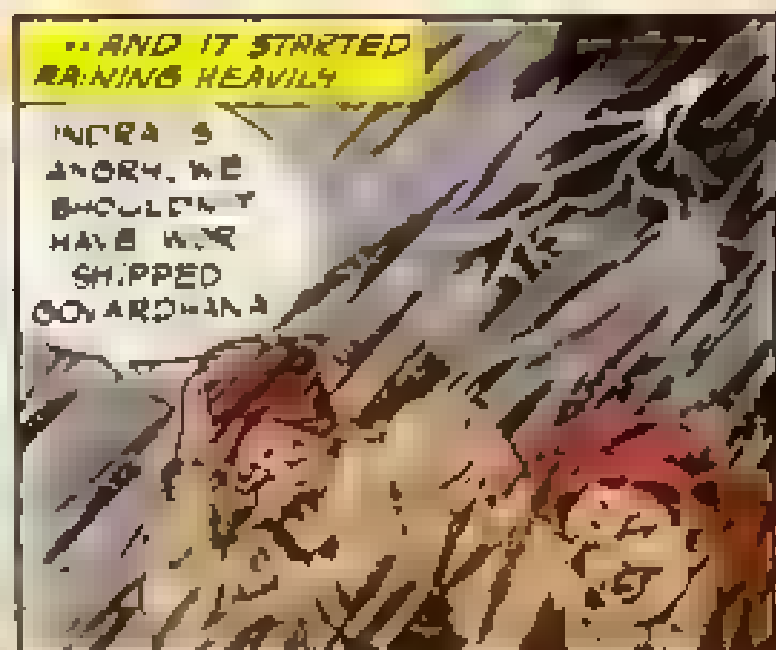
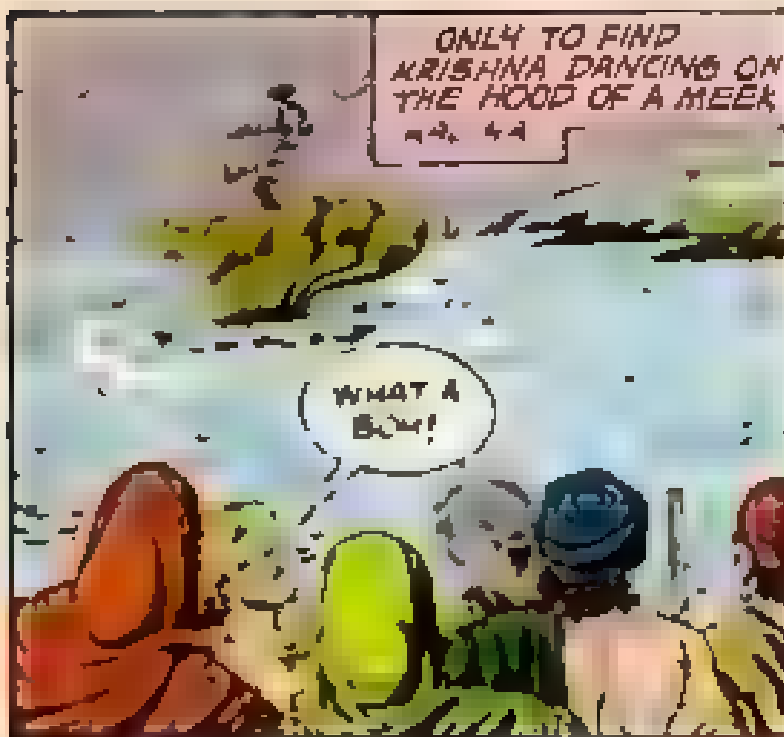
KRISHNA!
KRISHNA! PLEASE
COME BACK!
KALYA WILL
KILL YOU!

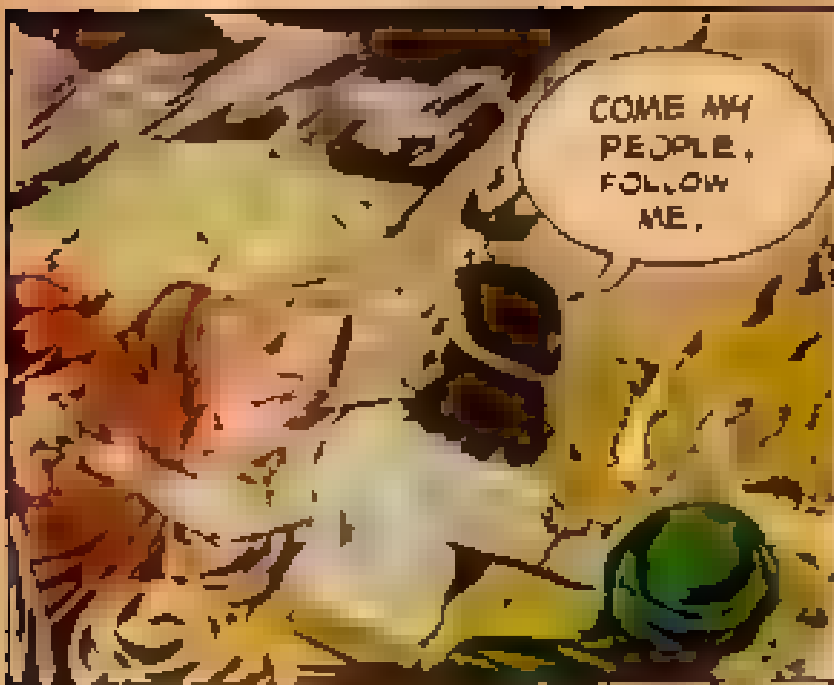
BUT KRISHNA DIDN'T
TURN BACK.



KRISHNA HAS
DISAPPEARED. RUN
AND TELL ANNA

AS THE NEWS SPREAD, PEOPLE RUSHED TO THE
POOL . .





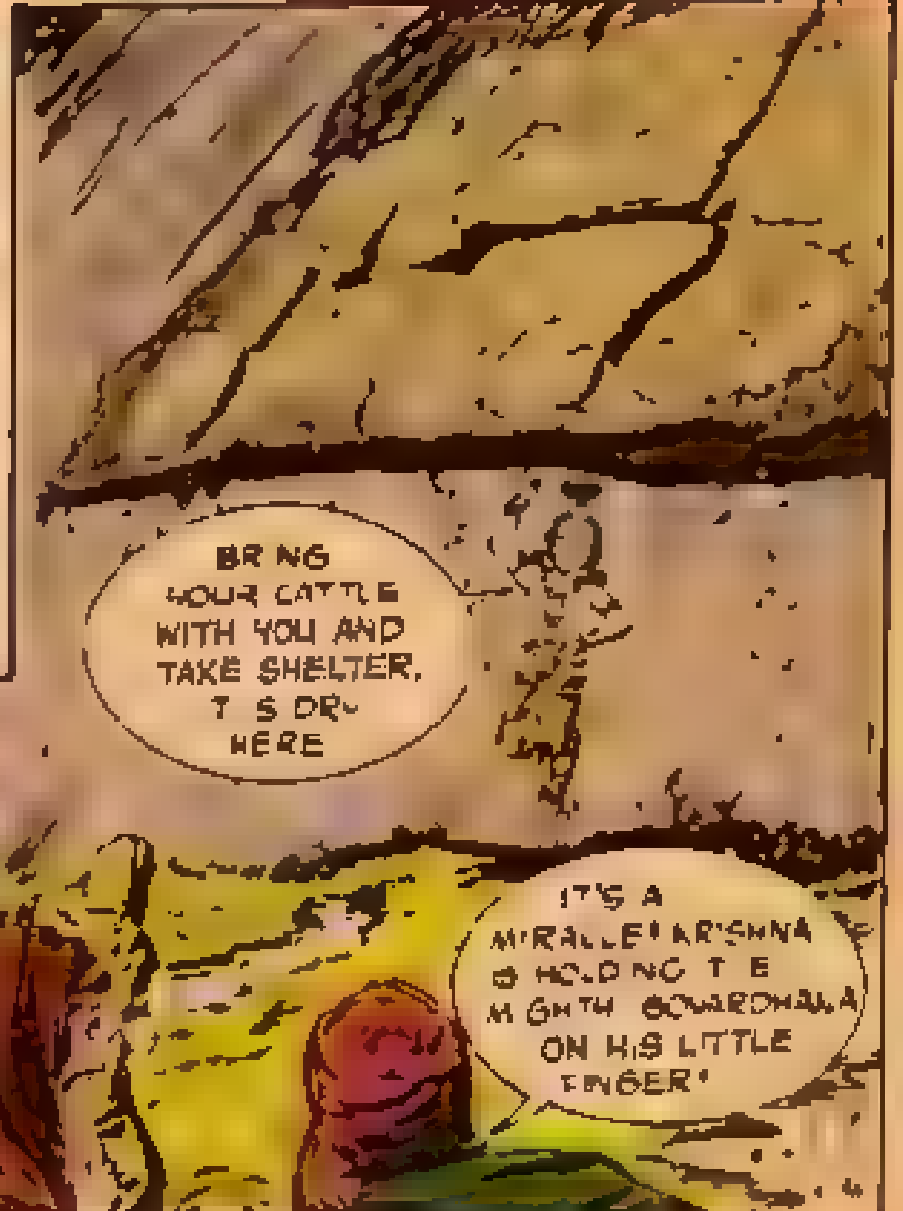
COME MY
PEOPLE,
FOLLOW
ME.



SUDDENLY A
BRIGHT LIGHT
WAS HEARD



LOOK!
IT'S
RISING!

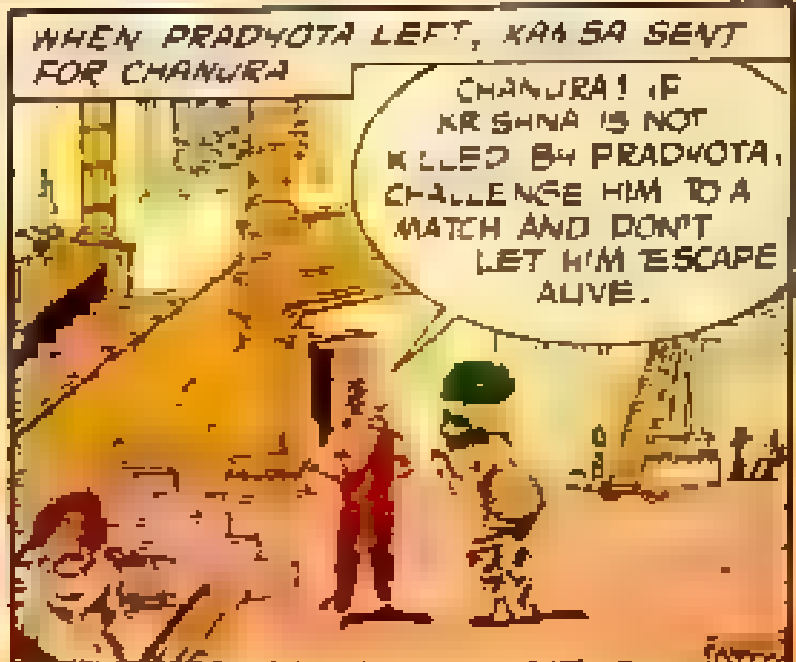


BRING
YOUR CATTLE
WITH YOU AND
TAKE SHELTER,
IT IS DR
HERE

IT'S A
MIRACLE! ARISHNA
IS HOLDING THE
MIGHTY GOWDHANA
ON HIS LITTLE
FINGER!



ARISHNA SHELTERED THEM FOR SEVEN DAYS
AND SEVEN NIGHTS TILL INDRA'S RAY WAS SPENT



HE ALSO SUMMONED THE CHIEF OF
MATHURA

YOU WILL STAND
AT THE ENTRANCE TO
THE MATHURA HALL WHEN
KRISHNA COMES THERE
SEE THAT YOUR
ELBORANT TRAMPLES
HIM TO DEATH

THEN HE DEPART FOR THE MATHURA

I WANT THE WHOLE
WORLD TO KNOW OF
KRISHNA. ASK HIM TO
COME TO MATHURA,
FOR THE BOW
SACRIFICE.

ANKURA SET OUT
ON HIS MISSION.

AT VRINDAVAN—

YOU MUST
PERMIT KRISHNA
TO LIVE IN
MATHURA

NO, ANKURA.
DON'T TRUST
RAMSA. HE
WILL NOT SEND MY
SON.

WHEN KRISHNA'S SON TOLD
HIMSELF AND HIS MOTHER HE
TOLD HIM HE WAS
ABOUT TO DIE

NANDAI
KRISHNA IS THE
SON OF PRINCE
VASUDEVA

I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT.

SO AKRURA NARRATED THE STORY OF KRISHNA'S BIRTH AND HOW HE WAS BROUGHT TO COVIL.

KRISHNA, DID YOU HEAR THAT PAIRURA SAYS THAT DEVAKI IS YOUR MOTHER. I AM YOUR MOTHER, AREN'T I?

PLEASE DON'T BE UPSET, MOTHER. I SHALL ALWAYS LOOK UPON YOU AS MY MOTHER BUT.

...I SEEK THE PERMISSION OF MY ELDERS TO GO TO MATHURA!

VERY GOOD, MY BOY! THE YADAVA CHIEFS WILL SEE THAT NO HARM COMES TO YOU.

YOU MAY GO, MY SON BUT BEWARE OF KANSA.

THE NEXT MORNING KRISHNA, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS UNCLE'S LEFT FOR MATHURA

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES, CHILDREN

AND COME BACK SOON.

AS THEY NEARED THE CITY OF
MAHLA, KRISHNA DECIDED TO FALL
SUDDENLY—

RISE, O
WOMAN! WHY
DO YOU FALL
AT MY
FEET?

LOOK AT TRIVAKRA!
HER HUMPED BACK
HAS STRAIGHTENED
OUT.

A MIRACLE!
HE MUST BE
OUR
SAVIOR

THE NEWS SPREAD AND A CROWD FOLLOWED
KRISHNA AND BALARAMA TO THE GATE OF THE
YAGNA HALL.

SIR, I AM
KRISHNA. MAY
I ASPECT THE
BOW?

CERTAINLY!
DO STEP
IN.

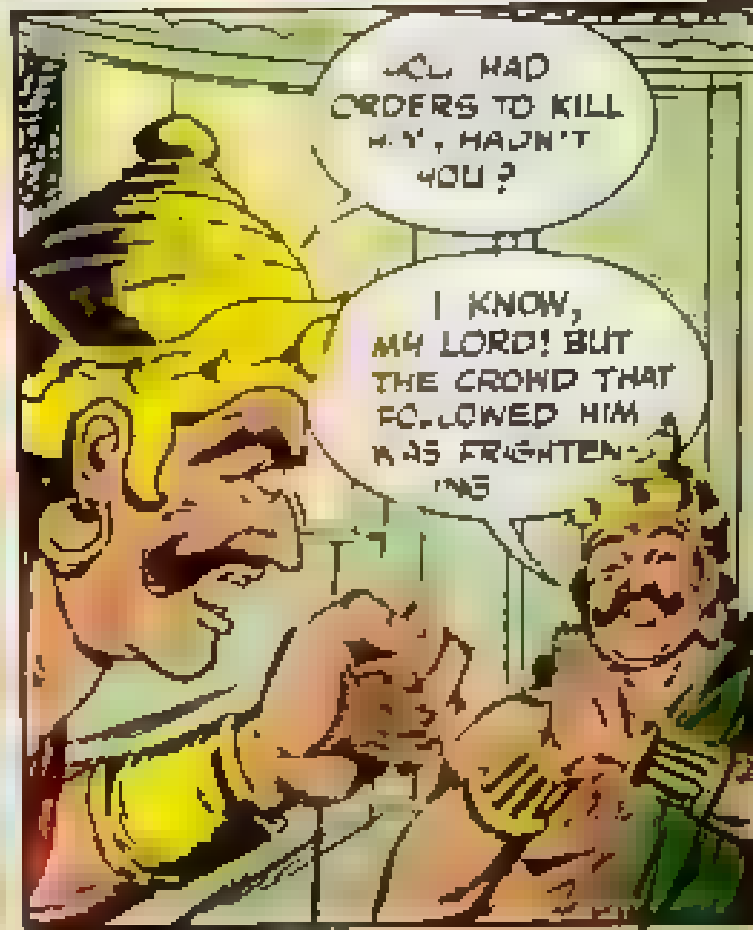
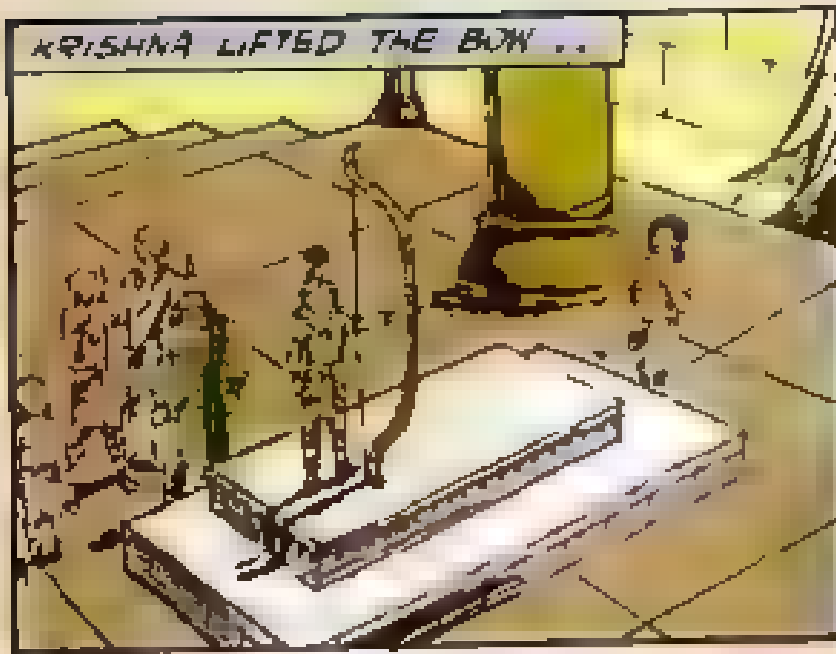
IT WAS PRADYOTA.

SO THIS
IS THE BOY
I HAVE TO
KILL

IS THIS THE
BOW? IT
DOESN'T
LOOK VERY
HEAVY.

BUT IT IS! EVEN
THE MIGHTY WRESTLER
CHANURA CANNOT
LIFT IT

I STILL
DON'T
BELIEVE
IT IS THAT
HEAVY.



THE NEXT MORNING
AS KRISHNA APPROACHED
THE GATE OF THE
KASBA HALL—

WATCH OUT,
KRISHNA! THE
ELEPHANT...

THE ELEPHANT SEIZED
KRISHNA.

BUT KRISHNA
ESCAPED ITS
GRIP, LIFTED
IT BY ITS
TRUNK...

...AND HURLED
IT INTO THE
AIR...

...KILLED IT

THEN WITH BALARAMA, HE TOOK HIS PLACE IN THE ARENA WHERE THE GAMES WERE BEING HELD.

KRISHNA, KAMSA HAS HEARD MUCH ABOUT YOUR STRENGTH AND VALOUR. HE HAS INVITED YOU TO WRESTLE... WITH ME!

IT'S AN HONOUR. CHANURA AM READY.



FIRST MUSHTIKA WILL WRESTLE WITH YOUR BROTHER.

BALARAMA AND MUSHTIKA FACED EACH OTHER

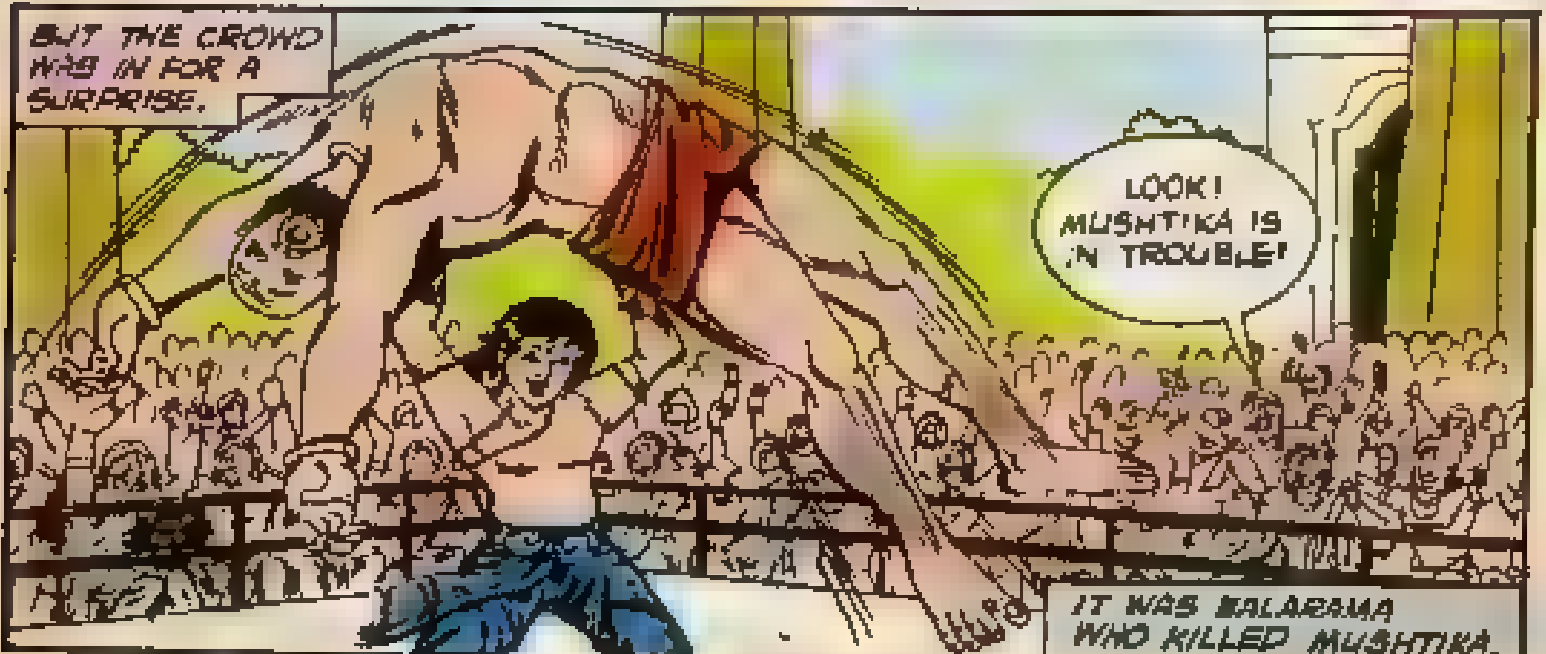
IT IS UNFAIR OF KAMSA TO PIT THIS BOY AGAINST MUSHTIKA! HE'LL BE KILLED.



BUT THE CROWD WAS IN FOR A SURPRISE.

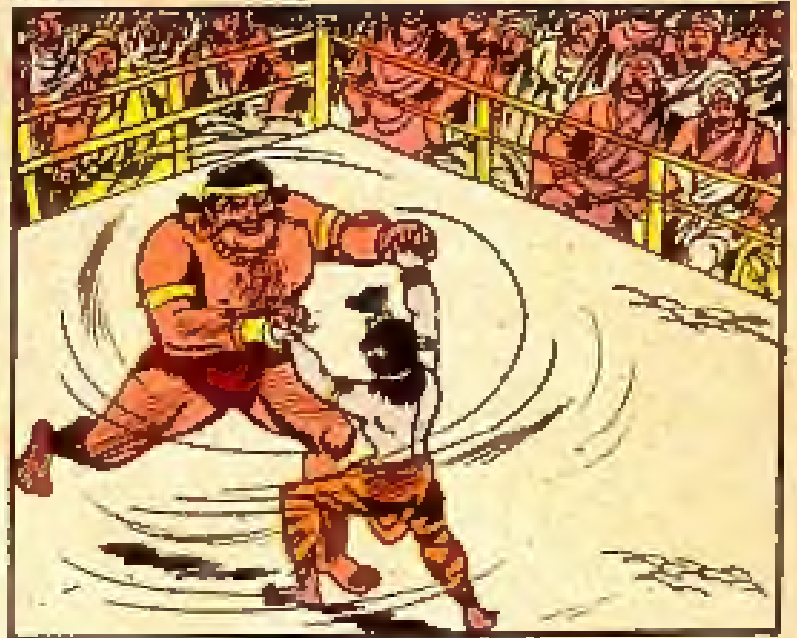
LOOK! MUSHTIKA IS IN TROUBLE!

IT WAS BALARAMA WHO KILLED MUSHTIKA.



NOW CHANURA STEPPED FORWARD.

ARE YOU
READY,
KRISHNA?



CHANURA TRIED TO CRUSH KRISHNA IN HIS MIGHTY ARMS. BUT KRISHNA SLIPPED AWAY.



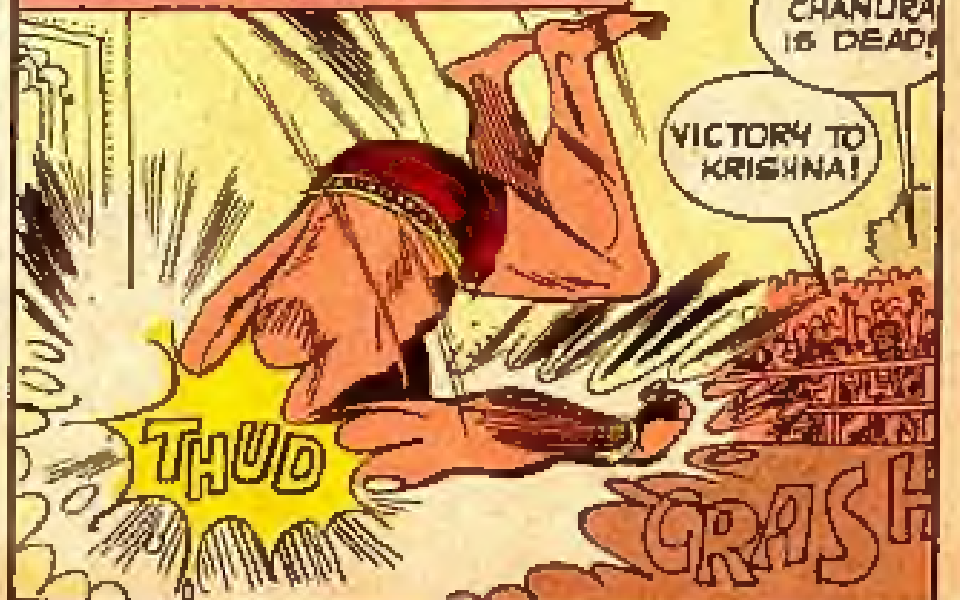
DISAPPOINTED, CHANURA RUSHED MADLY AT HIM.



BUT KRISHNA NIMBLY STEPPED ASIDE AND PICKING HIM UP...



...DASHED HIM TO THE GROUND.



CHANURA
IS DEAD!

VICTORY TO
KRISHNA!

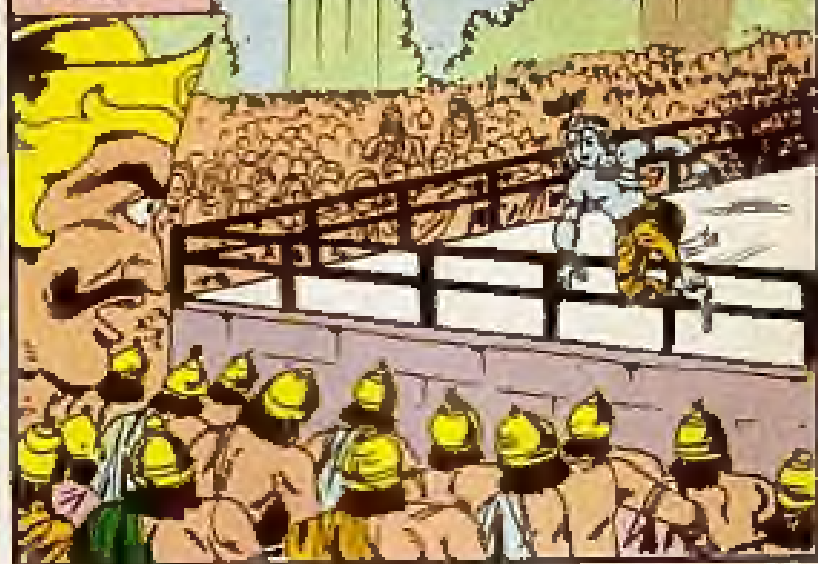
THUD

CRASH

AS KAMSA'S SOLDIERS MOVED
TOWARDS THE YADAVA CHIEFS...



... KRISHNA RUSHED TOWARDS
KAMSA...



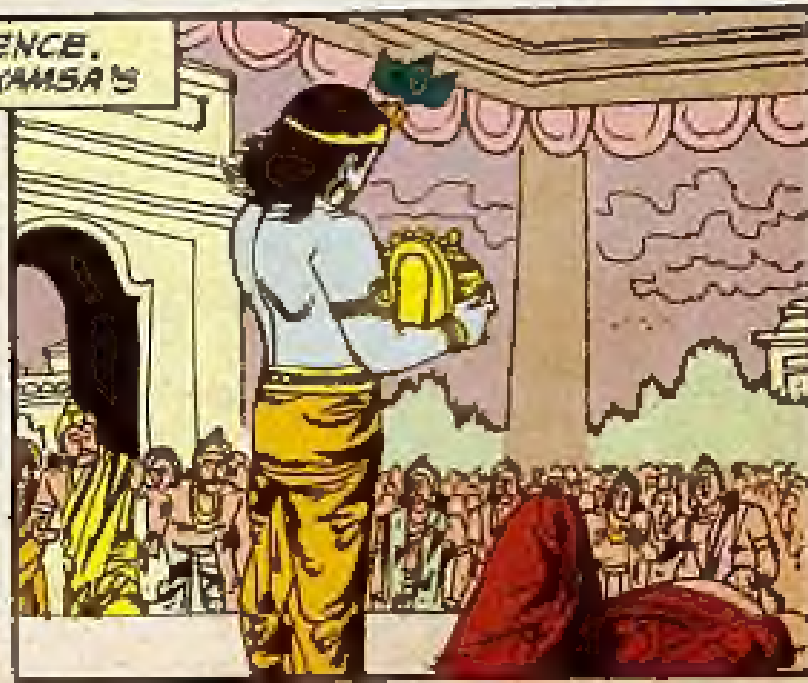
... TOOK AWAY HIS SWORD...



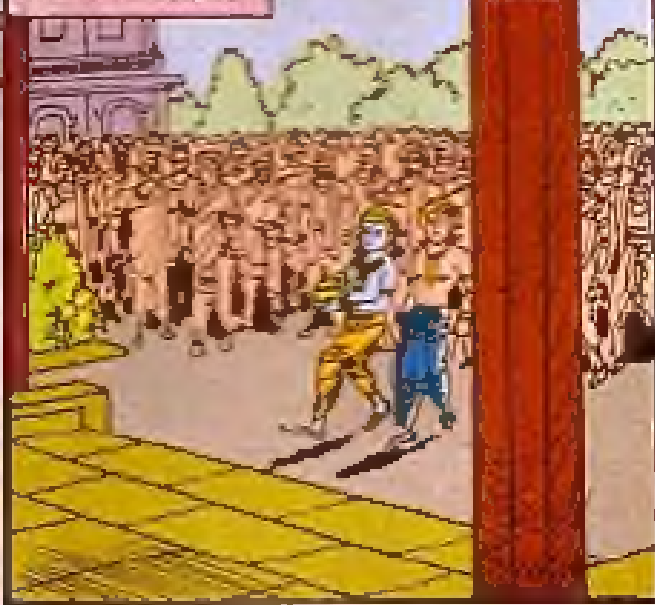
... AND THROWING HIM TO THE
GROUND, KILLED HIM.



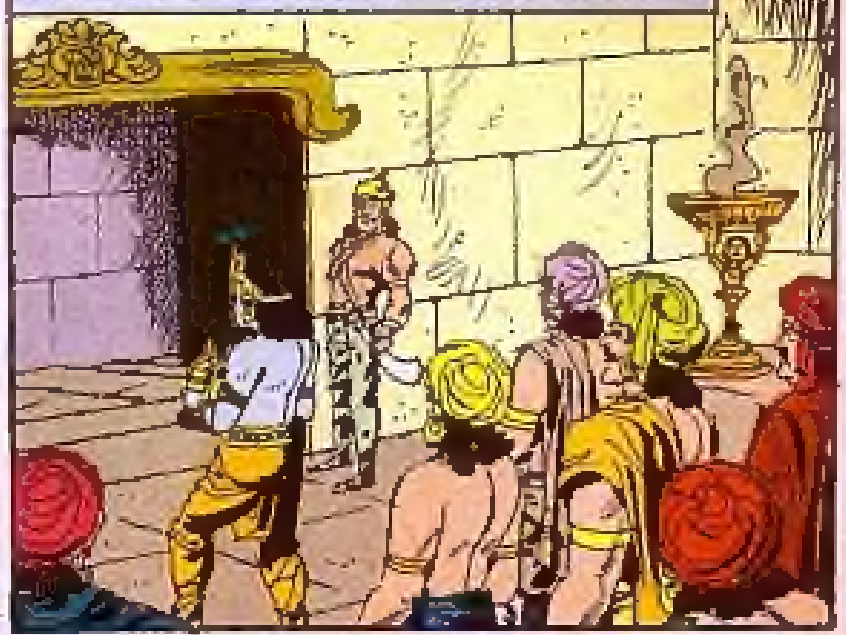
THE CROWD WAS STUNNED INTO SILENCE.
KRISHNA LIFTED THE CROWN FROM KAMSA'S
HEAD...



... AND BEGAN WALKING TOWARDS THE PALACE.



HE WALKED PAST THE GUARDS...



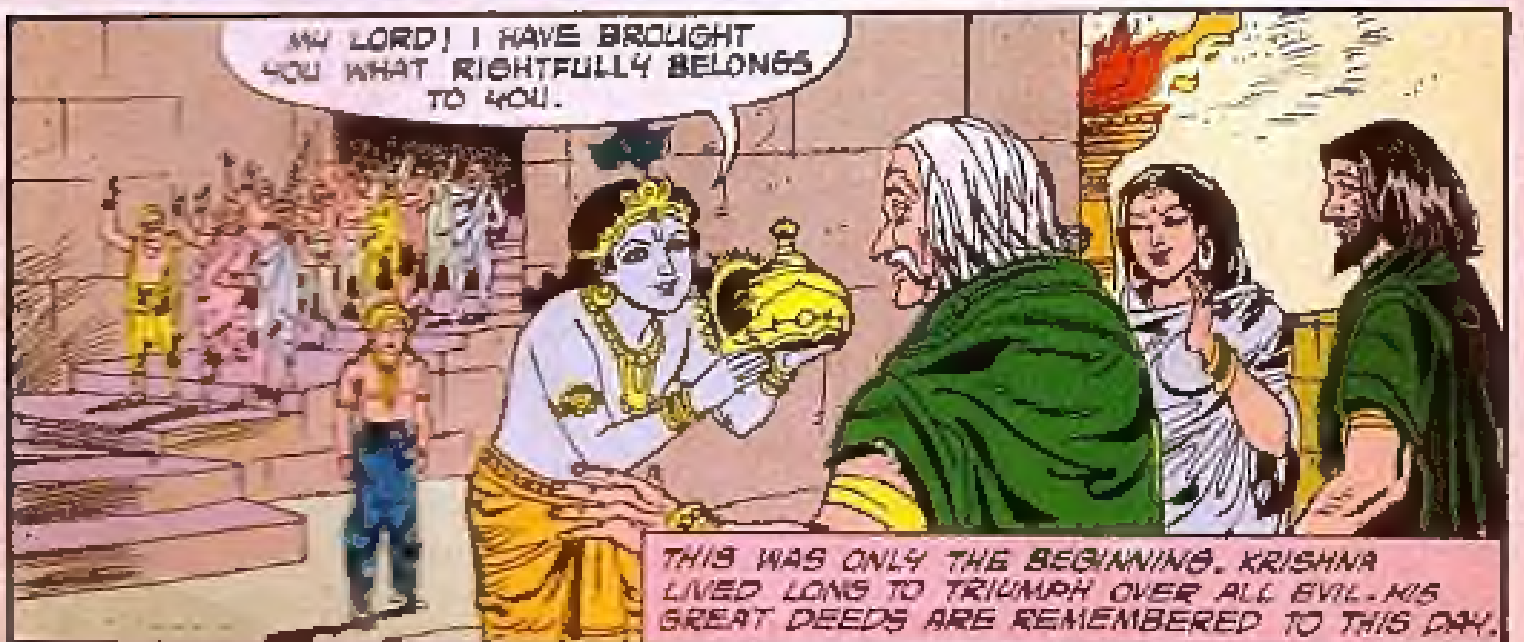
... AND WENT UP TO UGRASENA, KANSA'S FATHER.



MY LORD!

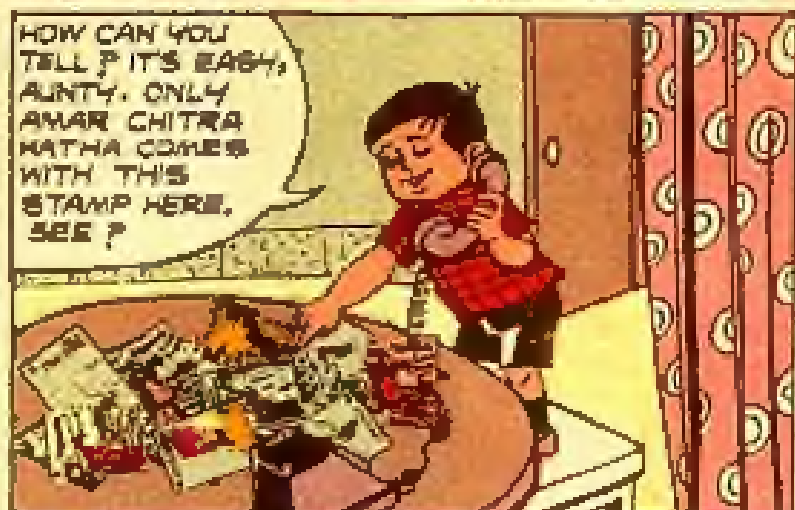
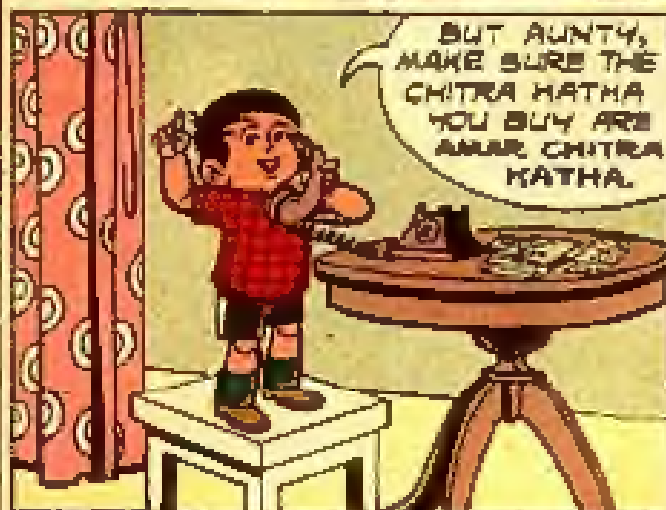
KRISHNA!

MY LORD! I HAVE BROUGHT YOU WHAT RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO YOU.



THIS WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING. KRISHNA LIVED LONG TO TRIUMPH OVER ALL EVIL. HIS GREAT DEEDS ARE REMEMBERED TO THIS DAY.

THE BIRTHDAY PRESENT



AMAR CHITRA KATHA ARE BROUGHT OUT BY PEOPLE

- who care for children
- who screen each word and each picture as they have a lasting impact on impressionable minds.
- for whom Chitra Katha is more a vehicle of education than a business.

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